

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 19 | Humidity 53%

Clear with periodic clouds

Sensex 59,832 | Nifty 17,599 | Gold 60,515 | Silver 74,554 | Dollar 81.84 | Euro 89.98 | GBP 101.65



## NO BELTER

'Won't fasten seatbelts'

PAGE 3



## LAKE BREW

Dead fish floating

PAGE 5

**In FY 2022-23, the city saw a 24% surge in new cars alongside a whopping 165% increase in new two wheelers. Here's why:**

# GRAND HEFT AUTO

**'Unreliable, insufficient public transport infra behind influx'**

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he sale of private vehicles in Bengaluru was in top gear in the past financial year (2022-23). According to the data from the Karnataka Transport Department, between April 2022 and March 2023, the number of newly registered private cars and two-wheelers almost tripled, compared to the number in the last financial year (2021-2022).

Bengaluru, already bustling with vehicles, added another 8.2 lakh private cars and two-wheelers this year. Just 3.6 lakh private vehicles were registered between April 2021 and March 2022.

While the number of newly registered cars recorded a 24% surge compared to last year, a whopping 165% increase in newly registered two-wheelers was observed.

With this, while the total number of vehicles — transport and non-transport combined — on city roads has reached 1.09 crore; nearly 96 lakh (88%) of these are private cars and two-wheelers.

Public transport experts and civic activists told BM that an unreliable

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**



**“This emphasis on road infrastructure projects by the BBMP has placed the city in a vicious cycle... futile interventions are being done for more than two decades...”**

— Dr Ashish Verma, IISc

## Wired world, not for trees

Activists urge removal of binding wires used to tie numbers on trees planted during compensatory afforestation



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**L**ake activists were left fuming over the use of binding wires used to tag young tree saplings grown as part of compensatory afforestation by BMRCCL. Nearly 120 saplings at the Veerasagara Lake have faced the apathy of the transport corporation.

Activists noticed the strange practice of tying tree number boards using binding wires on the Veerasagara Lake premises.

Environmentalists pointed out that the practice might hinder the natural growth of the saplings. They have called for an immediate withdrawal of the practice and the freeing of the trees.

Raghavendra B Pachhapur told BM that in a rapid survey on compensatory afforestation by BMRCCL, they noticed a certain practice followed during planting saplings.

"As per law, BMRCCL is supposed to plant 10 saplings for every tree that is cut and take care of it for three years. At Veerasagara Lake, the agency responsible for the sapling planting had tied the trees with a binding wire to hang the tree numbers. The practice will affect the growth of the trees. We brought the issue to BMRCCL's attention and submitted the compiled report to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>**

## 3 THINGS TO DO



### 01 Divine art

Get ready to watch noted Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra and her troupe Nrityantar Dance Ensemble perform a dance ballet on the epic tale of Ramayana and their newest offering 'Shoonya to Sufi'. The new dance presentation explores the mystical philosophy of Sufism.  
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Ramagondanahalli, Varthur Road, Whitefield; When: Sunday, April 16



### 02 Skills at best

Grab a chance to shop handcrafted goodies from ethnic wears to home decor, furniture, shoes, artcrafts, and more. Rajasthan Handloom and Handicraft Expo is being organised by various artisans from various parts of India at Yelahanka.  
Where: BDK Kalyana Mandapa, Santhe Circle, Airport Road flyover, Nehru Nagar, Yelahanka  
When: April 9 to 16; 10:30 am to 8:30 pm

### 03 Live free



Inspired by Kannada vachanas of feminist poet Akkamahadevi, Kaaya, a theatre group is here to encourage women through its performance. The group is known to question societal norms that hinders liberation for women. The team comprises talented artists who have been known for their creativity. Where: Ranga Shankara  
When: April 12 and 13



### Easter surprise for kids

Children with traditional Easter eggs, celebrate Easter Sunday at the St Andrew's Church on Cubbon Road, after the morning mass in Bengaluru

# Tiny steps towards waste-free living

Organisations come forward to create summer camps for kids to help them adapt to zero-waste lifestyle; to train children about composting

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**S**ummer camps are a great place to teach kids about the environment and how to take care of it. One way to do this is by introducing them to composting. Some organisations are coming forward to host summer camps for children between 6th and 12th grade to teach them about composting, helping them adapt to a zero-waste lifestyle.

Composting is the process of breaking down organic materials, such as food scraps and yard waste, into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that can be used in gardening and farming.

The summer camp, 'Better the soil', a five week programme, will be introduced to the younger generation on an online platform which will teach the joiners about composting, natural cleaners, growing your own food, waste, and its impact on waste reduction.

Shantha P, Relationship Manager at Stone Soup said, "This summer programme is all about helping them reduce waste footprint in their everyday life. We will help them adapt to a zero-waste lifestyle in a fun and experiential way. The students will be given a zero-waste kit. Throughout the module, we will teach them about composting, which can help them grow their own fruits and vegetables at home."



According to experts, to compost at home, simply collect organic waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, and yard waste, and add them to the compost bin

She added that at present not many think about managing the waste. The young generation can be the future protectors, and the onus is on them to learn how to manage waste. In the summer programme, we will also teach on sustainable menstruation and alternatives to plastic.

Furthermore, the residents agreed that composting is a great way to teach kids about the environment.

Roshni S who carries out composting in her house at JC road said, "Composting is a great way to teach kids about the environment and how to take care

of it. By setting up a composting system at summer camp and teaching campers how to compost, we can help them develop a lifelong appreciation for the natural world."

Experts say that composting at home is easy and requires very little space or equipment.

An expert in solid waste management pointed out, "To compost at home, simply collect organic waste such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, and yard waste, and add them to the compost bin. Over time, the organic matter will break down into a rich, dark

**“Composting is a great way to teach kids about the environment and how to take care of it. We can help kids develop regard for the natural world — Roshni S**

soil amendment that can be used to fertilize plants and enrich the soil. By composting at home, individuals can help to increase the overall rate of composting, and reduce the amount of organic waste that ends up in landfills."

## IPL: No parking here

To ensure smooth traffic flow during the IPL match at Chinnaswamy stadium on April 10 from 4 to 10 pm, traffic arrangements have been put in place.

During this time, parking restrictions will be in effect on the following roads: Queens Road, MG Road, MG Road to Cubbon Road, Rajbhavan Road, Central Street Road, Cubbon Road, St Marks Road, Museum Road, Kasturba Road, Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Trinity Jn, Lavelle Road, Vittal Mallya Road, and Nrupathunga Road. Public parking places will be available



It's that time again when all roads lead to the Chinnaswamy Stadium, so be prepared to face much traffic and parking space crunch

at UB City Parking lot, Kings Road, BRV Ground below metro lane, Kanteerava Stadium, BMTC TMC Shivajinagar 1st Floor, and old KGID Building. However, availability is subject to change, said a release by police. **BMB**

### Dagger-wielding cabbie held

A car driver was arrested for threatening a bike rider by waving a dagger in front of him. The accused has been identified as Arun Kumar. Arun, who was talking on his phone while driving, rammed into a two-wheeler. He then threatened the rider Prakash with a dagger and fled the scene.

Prakash recorded the threatening stance on his mobile phone and caught the scene of the auto driver with the dagger.

He shared the video through his Twitter account and expressed his displeasure.

After seeing the video, the Ramamurthy Nagar police filed a complaint and started the investigation. **BMB**



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# Fine or not, we won't fasten our seatbelts

## Penalty of Rs 1,000 for not wearing seatbelt in passenger seats of cars is not seeming to be a deterrent enough

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Despite the Karnataka Police issuing an order last year after the death of businessman Cyrus Mistry in a car crash to impose a fine of Rs 1,000 on those who do not wear seat belts while in the passenger seats, commuters in the city continue to violate the rule.

According to the data by the traffic police, Bengaluru has already registered more than 1 lakh cases related to people not wearing seat belts in 2023.

As per the data, the city has 1,31,996 safety belt violations as of February 2023.

Commuters in the city are often seen not wearing seatbelts and even if they wear them, many tend to remove it when there is no cop in sight. Sudhaunshu, a techie, who is a frequent commuter from Indiranagar to Marathahalli, says, "I only wear a seat belt when I see a cop at a junction and later, I remove it. I do it because I feel physical discomfort while wearing a seatbelt. Also, I feel if they are fining four-wheeler users for not wearing seatbelts on the rear seat, they should also make seat belts compulsory for the autos. Autos are far more dangerous than cars, so how come the rule only applies to cars?"

However, other commuters on the road feel that seat belt violations should not be taken lightly. Suraj, a



resident of the city, says, "Wearing of seatbelts is essential to prevent head injuries in case of accidents. Even when there is no collision, sudden jerks can lead to concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury. Damage to certain key areas of the brain may leave the person with serious conditions like dementia, loss of speech and other disabilities. Hence, it is of utmost importance to wear a seatbelt irrespective of whether the person is seated on the front or rear seats. Awareness needs to be created so that

more and more people start wearing them even while seated on the rear seats of cars."

**"If they are fining 4-wheeler users for this, they should also make seat belts compulsory for the autos. Autos are far more dangerous than cars"**

However, despite the Motor Vehicle Act stating that Rs 1,000 has to be collected as fine for the violation, a traffic police officer revealed that the police are collecting Rs 500 for the violation.

"We have traffic police at junctions and on the road, and we would click pictures of the vehicles that don't follow the rule. We impose a fine of Rs 500 for people not wearing the seat belt and for people who are not wearing seat belts on the rear seat," said a traffic police officer.

## A rallying worry for health dept

Karnataka is witnessing a steady rise in the number of covid and influenza cases. The surge has the health department worried, especially as the state is on the threshold of elections.

Mega rallies across the state by all political parties is making the task of the health department more difficult. Sources said that they are only able to issue advisories and it is for the people to follow them.

"We are hoping for the best and keeping our fingers crossed," the sources said.

Talking to IANS, Dr Satyanarayana Mysore, Manipal Hospital, said "In the past 3 weeks, the number of Covid cases has gone up. This is just the tip of the iceberg." "Not many people undergo tests because the virus is mild and the symptoms are milder. That kind of a situation is at odds with the results of the sewage surveillance. You will find a higher positivity rate in sewage surveillance compared to the actual number of patients coming for tests or treatment. The need of the hour is Covid-appropriate behaviour and wearing a mask. There is no need to panic."

Dr Basavaraj Kuntoji, Manipal Hospital, told IANS, "Yes, we are seeing a very small increase in the number of covid-positive patients and a few patients of H3N2 and regular flu patients in the last 2 to 3 weeks.

"The covid patients we have seen are all doing well. They did not have any complications like hypoxia or acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, and got better with OPD consultation. But the patients who have influenza virus type A and type B, or what we call regular flu, are becoming sicker, requiring hospitalisation. A very few of these influenza virus-infected patients may require oxygen support, he stated.

Presently, the number of active Covid cases has touched 1,596. The weekly positivity rate has gone up to 3.53 per cent. **-IANS**

# Still some waiting to do

## Peenya flyover repair work expected to be completed only by 2025

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**T**he Peenya flyover, often known as the 'gateway of Bengaluru' that is used by countless commuters, is likely to cause inconveniences to citizens as repair work is expected to be completed only by 2025. However, heavy vehicles will be allowed from September, according to the latest estimates.

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has accepted the recommendation made by the expert committee to repair the flyover. The proposal suggests adding an additional 240 pre-stressed cables to the existing 120 spans to strengthen the flyover. Furthermore, all 1,200 cables will be replaced with epoxy-coated cables to prevent corrosion.

Work on the flyover is expected to commence in a few weeks. Dr Chandra Kishen JM, a member of the expert committee, stated that the flyover will not be closed during the repair work. Light vehicles will be allowed during the three-four months of repair work. The plan is to add two additional pre-stressed



On the backdrop of Peenya flyover being closed for repair work, commuters travelling between Parle toll plaza junction and Yeshwantpur take 2-3 hours to cover the distance of 10 km (File photo)

cables in each span to further strengthen the flyover, after which heavy vehicles will be allowed. Once heavy vehicles are permitted, all existing cables will be gradually replaced one by one while traffic is moving. The process is expected to take about two years. The repair work is estimated to cost Rs 13 crore.

According to estimates, both heavy and light vehicles will be allowed on the flyover simultaneously by September 2023. However, complete repair work is expected to be finished by 2025.

In December 2021, the condition of the Peenya Flyover's two pre-stressed cables came under scrutiny

**According to estimates, both heavy/light vehicles will be allowed on the flyover simultaneously by Sep 2023; the work is estimated to cost ₹13 cr**

during a routine inspection. Following this, NHAI suspended entry of vehicles on the flyover, which was opened for light vehicles in February 2022. However, heavy vehicles were completely barred from using the flyover.

In February 2022, a load test was conducted to assess the structural strength of the flyover. The committee inspected every single cable, and as some of them were not visible to the naked eye, heavy vehicles were

barred from using the flyover. The flyover has 120 spans, and each span has 10 pre-stressed cables. During the investigation, the expert committee found that the pre-stressed cables were slowly corroding inside and could not be seen with the naked eye.

To address this issue, the team proposed using epoxy-coated cables to provide resistance against corrosion and to ensure visibility of corrosion.

## GAIL slashes PNG, CNG prices by ₹7

New prices for PNG, CNG are Rs 51.50/scm, Rs 82.50/kg, respectively in B'luru, Dakshina Kannada

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**G**AIL Gas Ltd, the city gas arm of the nation's largest gas firm GAIL (India) Ltd, on Sunday announced a reduction of up to ₹ 7 in the prices of CNG and piped cooking gas following a reduction in input gas price. GAIL cut the price of the gas that households received through piped natural gas, or PNG, by Rs 7 per standard cubic metre in Bengaluru and Dakshina Kannada and by Rs 6 per scm in other cities where the company operates.

Similarly, CNG price has been cut by Rs 7 per kg in Karnataka and by Rs 6 in other areas, the company said in a statement.

The new prices for PNG and CNG are Rs 51.50 per scm and Rs 82.50 per kg, respectively in Bengaluru and Dakshina Kannada. GAIL said that the new guidelines are aimed at establishing a stable pricing regime for consumers, while promoting the usage of CNG and PNG as a preferred fuel. This will not only help



The new effective domestic PNG prices are Rs 52.50 per scm in Dewas, Meerut, Sonipat, Taj Trapezium Zone, Raisen, Mirzapur, Dhanbad, Adityapur, and Rourkela

in reducing the carbon footprint, but will also improve overall quality of life.

"GAIL Gas Limited is also steering its pricing mechanism in line with the Government of India's guideline to pass on new domestic gas pricing benefits to its customers and has announced a substantial reduction in prices with effect from April 9, 2023," it said.

The new effective domestic PNG

prices are Rs 52.50 per scm in Dewas, Meerut, Sonipat, Taj Trapezium Zone, Raisen, Mirzapur, Dhanbad, Adityapur, and Rourkela.

Similarly, the new CNG price is Rs 85 per kg for Meerut and Sonipat; Rs 92 per kg for Dewas, Taj Trapezium Zone & Dehradun; Rs 87 per kg for Mirzapur, Rs 91 per kg for Raisen, Dhanbad, Adityapur, Puri and Rourkela.

This follows the government re-

**“The new guidelines aim to establish a stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers while providing protection from adverse market situations – GAIL statement**

vising the formula for the pricing of natural gas, which is converted into CNG for running automobiles and piped into household kitchens for cooking purposes. The revised formula and the cap or ceiling price imposed has brought down the price of natural gas to USD 6.5 per million British thermal units from USD 8.57.

"The new guidelines aim to establish a stable pricing regime for domestic gas consumers while providing sufficient protection to producers from adverse market fluctuations, along with incentives to user industries and the CGD sector. It will accelerate the expansion of CNG and PNG as a preferred fuel, and will also contribute to reducing the carbon footprint," the statement said. (With agency inputs)

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### Shoddy work

**National College Ground**



Substandard drainage work done in National College Ground, behind National College Metro Station, needs to be looked at.

### Maintenance check

**Domlur**



The Dog Park in Domlur has not been maintained for the past six months. It has also become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### Path blocked

**Koramangala**



Recently, the pavement on 8th Main Koramangala 3rd Block near 1st cross was redone, but blocks were left obstructing the path.

## STATE OF LAKES



Several dead fish floating on the surface of Seetharampalya Lake in Hoodi; One part of the lake is situated near a residential colony, where the water looks fine



# Dead fish go where sewage flows

## Seetharampalya Lake sees fourth fish kill incident of this year

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In yet another instance, residents of Hoodi observed dead fish floating in Seetharampalya lake this year. Citizens and environmentalists attributed the fish kill to sewage entering the water body.

Vedant Paikray, an intern at Action Aid Association, visited the lake on Sunday and was surprised to see several dead fish floating on its surface. He pointed out that the lake has two parts separated by a bund, and both sides of the lake had dead fish floating. "One part of the lake is situated near the residen-

tial colony, where the water quality looks fine, and the number of dead fish floating was low. However, on the other side, I could see the lake water turning green, which is a sign of eutrophication, and many dead fish were found at the lake. I was alerted about the incident on Friday. However, when I visited on Sunday, I saw the same case." The fish were not even cleared from the lake. The part of the lake where many dead fish were found had even started to smell. The fish are dying due to low dissolved oxygen content, he said, adding that officials need to check the water quality and trap sewage flow on an immediate basis.

The lake was earlier under Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) jurisdiction. It was handed over to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2020. When it was under BDA, little was done to maintain the lake. A corporation had come forward to develop the lake by carrying out planta-

tions, fixing new benches, and creating a pathway in 2015. However, no development has been carried out for its maintenance since then.

Paikray said, "The main part of the lake is in a bad state now. A lot of dry waste has also been dumped inside the premises. Despite a clean-

**"I could see the lake water turning green, which is a sign of eutrophication, and many dead fish were found at the lake"**

—Vedant, Action Aid Association

er being appointed to remove waste from the sewage pipe, sewage has still been entering the lake. Proper diversion channels need to be created to protect the lake. Apart from this, there is no fencing of the lake, and no guards are appointed for the security of the lake."

Raghvendra Pachhapur, a lake activist, pointed out one of the main interventions that BBMP needs to carry out is to build sewage diversion channels a km before the mouth of the lake to divert sewage away from the lake. "BBMP usually builds the diversion channel at the mouth of the lake. Having it built at the mouth will still allow sewage to flow inside the lake. As there is no maintenance of these inlets, both the BBMP and BWSSB should ensure and put in all effort to keep the lake clean. The idea is to focus on the ecological part of the lake first and thereafter its beautification," he said.

A BBMP official said, "With the recent rains, sewage would have entered the lake. The lake needs to be developed, and we have not started working on it yet. We will inspect it and start the process."

So far, in 2023, four incidents of fish kill have been reported. Two incidents at Kothanur lake, one at Iblur Lake, and this one...

## ... but some lakes do have better luck

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In the flood-hit constituency of Mahadevapura, 65 lakes are in the process of development, 38 lakes are in the maintenance phase, and the remaining ones are in the process of further development or deepening.

Out of the 65 lakes in Mahadevapura, 32 fall under BBMP. Those in Bellandur and Varthur are being developed by BDA, and 33 lakes are under the Gram Panchayat.

Of the 32 lakes under BBMP, 22 lakes have been completed with walking paths and parks. Bellandur and Varthur Lake are being desilted by BDA at a cost of Rs 10,000 lakh

and Rs 5,000 lakh, respectively. The remaining 8 lakes are in the progress of development.

Out of the 33 lakes under the Gram Panchayat, 10 are being developed. For the remaining, water filling work is being carried out at a cost of Rs 98 crore.

The information was published by the Mahadevapura MLA's office in the Mahadevapura Janahita-Development Report Card 2018-2023.

Chairman of Mahadevapura Task Force (Jal Shakthi), Clement Jayakumar, said, "Over the course of five years, 65 lakes have been developed. Out of these, 38 are in the maintenance phase and the remaining are in the further development and deepening phase. Within three years, all 65 lakes will be developed with basic conditions. All



these lakes will be reasonably clean and meet the Grade B standards of water purity set by KSPCB."

Clement added that earlier, lake development was happening on an ad hoc basis. "As per our new direction, the first step is the fencing of the property. Then there is desilting and deepening. The third step would be to install a trash barrier/

silt trap to stop the garbage inside drains from entering the lake. In the fourth stage, we construct a diversion canal. In normal times, sewage would go to the diversion canal, and when it rains, it overflows and mixes with rainwater to enter the lake. The sewage entering is diluted and less harmful than raw sewage. Beyond this, based on funds available, parks, and lighting will be arranged," he said.

### Stormwater drain work

Additionally, out of the 119 km of rajakaluves, 28 km has been completed, 34 km is in progress right now, and another 57 km is yet to be worked on. During the floods last year, 53 flood points were identified and flood-mitigation efforts were undertaken at 45 places.

## IN BRIEF

## Partly cloudy sky in B'luru

The weather forecast for Bengaluru over the next 24 hours predicts a partly cloudy sky with mist expected during the early morning hours in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 33 and 21 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Rainfall occurred at isolated places over North-Interior Karnataka, while dry weather prevailed over Coastal and South-Interior Karnataka. Maximum rainfall was recorded in Dharwad at 2 cm and Londa (Belagavi district) at 1 cm. Kalaburgi recorded the highest temperature (37.5 degrees Celsius) in the state. The forecast for the state, valid until April 11, predicts possible light rain at isolated places over all the districts of Coastal Karnataka in the next 24 hours. Dry weather is expected to prevail over Interior-Karnataka. Over the next 48 hours, light rain is likely to occur at isolated places across the state.

BMB

## KMF-Amul: 'No merger'

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has denied reports of any merger with Amul, terming the rumours as fake news being spread on social media. KMF has clarified that there is no threat to the brand, which has been built over four decades and has a customer base of 5 crore people. BC Sateesh, Managing Director and CEO of KMF, stated that Amul is not a competitor for KMF as the federation currently holds a market share of 82 to 84 per cent with 17 private milk companies competing in the Karnataka market. Amidst these rumours, Bengalureans have started an online campaign to save the Nandini brand and oppose the entry of Amul. However, Amul's Managing Director has clarified that they only want to start milk supply online in Bengaluru.

BMB

## CBSE to teach students AI

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is promoting skill education by introducing 12-15 hour Skill Modules aligned with skill subjects offered in Secondary and Senior Secondary classes for students in classes VI-VIII. The modules cover a wide range of subjects such as Artificial Intelligence, Design Thinking and Innovation, Marketing/Commercial Application, and Travel and Tourism, among others. These Skill Modules aim to engage students in skill-based learning, enhance their confidence and independence, and impart knowledge and skills that will help them in real-life situations. Schools can use Bagless Days, vacation time, summer camps, or activity periods to teach the modules, and can have a regular period for selective modules to encourage more students to opt for them.

BMB

# Vying for Vokkaliga votes

Political parties turn their attention towards how to win votes from state's second-largest community that 'holds sway in several constituencies in B'luru Urban'



**A**s Vokkaligas (15 per cent of the population) are considered to be the second major community of Karnataka after Lingayats (17 per cent), the focus is on how whether there would be a shift in their voting stance in the May 10 Assembly election as the ruling BJP has aggressively tried to woo them.

One can gauge the role Vokkaligas play in Karnataka politics from the fact that it has given seven Chief Ministers to Karnataka since independence and a PM.

As a retired IAS officer puts it, this is a community which has rich political awareness.

"Of the 17 chief ministers Karnataka had, seven were from the Vokkaliga community. K Chengalaraya Reddy, Kengal Hanumanthiah and Kadidal Manjappa, the first three chief ministers of the state, were from the Vokkaliga community," the officer said. He added that HD Deve Gowda, a Vokkaliga, became the first person from Karnataka to occupy the post of Prime Minister.

The Old Mysuru region, the community's stronghold, comprises Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Kolar, Tumakuru and Hassan districts. The region has 58 Assembly constituencies, which is more than one-fourth of the total number of seats in the 224-member House. JD(S) represented 24 seats, Congress 18, and BJP 15 in this region in the current Assembly.

This apart, the community is present in sizable numbers in Bengaluru Urban district comprising 28 constituencies, Bengaluru Rural district (four constituencies), and



A municipal worker paints over political posters on a wall as the model code of conduct has come into effect after the announcement of the schedule of Karnataka Assembly elections, in Chikkamagaluru (file)

Chikkaballapura (eight constituencies).

A political activist Raje Gowda claimed that Vokkaligas dominate in all the 27 out of 28 Assembly constituencies of Bengaluru Urban district barring Anekal. In the Bengaluru Rural district and Chikkaballapura, they hold sway, he added.

"We are scattered ideologically and do not vote en masse like certain other communities. This shows we are liberal in choosing our leaders, which can be seen either as our weakness or our strength," Raje Gowda quipped.

HD Deve Gowda-headed JD (S) counts the Vokkaligas as its main vote base in the old Mysuru region, where its main fight is with the Congress though of late the BJP has been able to make some inroads.

Apparently, seeking to expand its base among this community, the BJP government came up with its 'reservation engineering' making the 2B category of four per cent reservation, exclusively for 'other backward Muslims' redundant and distributed the two per cent equally among Lingayats and Vokkaligas.

With this, reservation for Vokkaligas has gone up from four per cent to six per cent. The move pleased the revered seer of Vokkaliga community, Adichunchanagiri Math pontiff Swami Nirmalanandanatha, who praised the BJP government.

**Of the 17 chief ministers Karnataka had, seven were from the Vokkaliga community**

—a retired IAS officer

As part of its Vokkaliga 'appeasement' exercise, the BJP built a 108-ft tall Nada Prabhu Kempe Gowda's statue, the founder of Bengaluru and 16th century chieftain of Vijayanagara dynasty, near the Bengaluru International Airport.

Recently, Karnataka Minister Munirathna came up with a plan to make a movie 'Uri Gowda-Nanje Gowda' based on folklore. The folklore is based on a belief among a section of people that there were two Vokkaliga chieftains in erstwhile Mysuru kingdom by name Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda. **PTI**

## IN BRIEF

**'K'taka tired of 40% commission, wants 100% commitment'**

**F**ormer union minister Shashi Tharoor on Sunday said people in Karnataka were tired of "40 per cent commission" and wanted "100 per cent commitment" that the Congress party would give if it were voted to power in the upcoming Assembly election.

He also said that the Congress was prepared to tackle the "serious deficiencies" in state-level and urban-level governance in Bengaluru and the entire state of Karnataka.

"I think the people in this state are tired of the 40 per cent commission. What they want is 100 per cent commitment and that's what we will give - 100 per cent commitment to the well-being of the people of Karnataka," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said at a press conference in Bengaluru.

In poll-bound Karnataka where the Assembly election is just a month away, the Congress has been accusing the BJP-led state government of collecting 40 per cent commission from contractors, unaided private schools and even some religious institutions on the grants that they receive from the government.

Tharoor said the state was being badly governed and that the infrastructure in Bengaluru was becoming an embarrassment.

"Our message is very simple. We have seen, unfortunately, over four years now, bad governance. When there is bad governance and there is nothing to see, people inevitably wonder what they need a government for," he explained.

There were essential needs of the people that had not been met and the Congress party had already come out with a number of "very specific policies" to fulfill those needs, the Congress leader said.

He added that the Congress was coming up with policies such as ensuring that unemployed graduates and unemployed diploma-holders could get some support from the state so that they can live with self-respect while they search for jobs. He also said the Congress was planning to honour the 'Gruha Lakshmi' -- the homemakers -- so that they could get some compensation for their unpaid labour.

"So whether it is state-level governance or urban level governance, we feel that there are serious deficiencies that the Congress government is ready and prepared to tackle," he further added. **PTI**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### Rumour mongering

After rumours circulated of a cold war between Congress leaders Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar over who will claim the CM's post if the Congress is voted into power, both the leaders were spotted together in Delhi. Journalists quickly asked KPCC president DK Shivakumar about his views, to which he quipped, "I know what Siddaramaiah's heart says and what my heart says, and even what journalists' hearts say."

### Free publicity

As parties grapple with infighting over announcing candidatures for the forthcoming elections, rumours have surfaced about a power struggle within HD Deve Gowda's family. Former minister HD

Revanna's wife, Bhavani Revanna, is said to be lobbying for a Hassan Assembly ticket. When journalists asked Revanna about the ticket and tensions simmering within the family, the Holenarasipura MLA denied any fissures within the family. In fact, he thanked the media for giving them free publicity every day in the name of a family feud.

### App or in person?

Is it better to complain in person or through an app? During a press conference, journalists questioned the BBMP Chief Commissioner over lack of will power on removing illegal posters and banners violating the model code of conduct. However, Tushar Giri Nath said that they have been doing their duty and no such illegal posters

existed in the city. The journalists pointed that such posters were found even next to the BBMP headquarters for which the civic body has turned a blind eye and wondered if the chief can take action. Pat came the reply, why don't you lodge this complaint via C Vigil app.

### Easy ticket

Is Sudeep eyeing tickets for Assembly elections or batting for his friends as he has extended his support to the Chief Minister. When journalists quizzed Sudeep as to whether he was trading his support for tickets, the actor said, "When you are talking about tickets, at the most, I can ask cinema tickets for my friends but definitely not election tickets and I am not interested either." **—Sridhar Vivian**



## STATUS OF THE STRIPED ONES

# More tigers, but not so in non-protected areas

Number of tigers has gone up in country, but data shows dip in tiger occupancy throughout Western Ghats, with a few exceptions such as in Anshi-Dandeli area

**T**hough the tiger numbers in the country have gone up, their numbers are going down outside the protected areas (PA). According to the 2023 tiger census report released on Sunday, there has been a 6.3% increase in the tiger population in the country, with a total of 3,167 tigers. This is a significant increase from the 1,411 tigers recorded in 2006, 1,706 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, and 2,967 in 2018. However, the state-wide tiger census report was not announced on Sunday, and sources suggest it may be released on World Tiger Day (July 29).

## The bad news

The report stated that the Nilgiri cluster, which spans from Nagarhole to BRT Hills in the Western Ghats, is the world's largest tiger population and has played a significant role in the expansion of tiger populations in neighbouring areas. However, recent data indicates a decline in tiger occupancy throughout the Western Ghats, with a few exceptions such as the Anshi-Dandeli area. While tiger populations within protected areas have remained stable or increased, tiger occupancy outside of these areas has declined, particularly in the Wayanad and BRT Hills landscapes.

## Increase in Anshi-Dandeli

According to the 2022 Status of Tigers report, tiger occupancy has increased in the Anshi-Dandeli landscape's eastern portion but declined in the border areas of Goa and Karnataka's Mollem-Mhadeli-Anshi Dandeli complex. The Mookambika-Sharavathi-Sirsi landscape has seen a significant decline in tiger occupancy, while the Bhadra landscape has remained stable. Additionally, tiger occupancy has declined outside of the Periyar landscape, and local extinctions have been observed in Sirsi, Kanyakumari, and Srivilliputhur.

## Best protected areas

While the Western Ghats boasts some of the best-protected area con-



The report states that the Nilgiri cluster, which spans from Nagarhole to BRT Hills in the Western Ghats, is the world's largest tiger population and has played a big role in the expansion of tiger populations

nectivity in the country, increasing human development and footprints are leading to a rise in the interface between humans and wildlife. Although wildlife in human-dominated landscapes is culturally significant, there is a growing tension between humans and mega herbivores and carnivores. Addressing this issue is crucial if we are to preserve one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The spread of invasive species is also a major concern in the Western Ghats, with large tracts of protected areas being affected. It is necessary to contain this spread to ensure the survival of native flora and, subsequently, to reduce its impact on fauna, soil, and habitat as a whole.

## Unique tigers

According to the report, the Western Ghats region contains some of the most biodiverse protected areas in the country. However, the increasing development in the region has resulted in a growing overlap between wildlife and humans. In 2018, the tiger population in the region was estimated to be 981, but

in 2022, only 824 unique tigers were recorded, indicating a decline in some regions and stability in well-protected tiger reserves. To safeguard the indigenous flora and the ecosystem as a whole, invasive species must also be contained.

## Tiger estimation

The fifth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation (2022) involved surveying forested habitats in 20 states of India. A foot survey covering 6,41,449 km was conducted to estimate carnivore signs and prey abundance.

In addition, 3,24,003 habitat plots were sampled for vegetation, human impacts, and ungulate dung. Camera traps were set up at 32,588 locations, resulting in a staggering 4,70,81,881 photographs, out of which 97,399 were of tigers. The survey required a total effort of over 6,41,102 man-days, making it the largest wildlife survey conducted to date in terms of all the above counts.

## Challenges galore

Despite conservation efforts, there

**“Of the 4,00,000 sq km of forests in states that have tigers, only one-third are in relatively good condition. Illegal wildlife trade is a challenge”** — From the report

remain several challenges in the preservation of tigers. A significant issue is balancing the need for large-scale economic development with the protection of forests and their wildlife, as well as addressing human-tiger conflict. Additionally, climate change is impacting habitats and leading to the degradation of forest quality.

Of the approximately 4,00,000 sq km of forests in tiger states, only one-third are in relatively good condition. Illegal wildlife trade is another critical challenge, as poaching continues to occur due to high demand for tiger products.

Despite the illegality of such activities, poachers still kill tigers for profit. — Agencies

## On a Safari

**P**rime Minister Narendra Modi went on a safari at Bandipur National Park in Karnataka on Sunday.

Clad in casuals and donning a hat, PM Modi travelled in an open jeep for one-and-a-half hours and spotted tiger and other wild animals.

Nine convoy vehicles followed his jeep in the jungle, authorities said. PM Modi started his safari from Bandipur campus and traversed about 12 kms in the deep jungles. He went to Bolagudda hill area which offers a spectacular view of the Bandipur National Park.

Earlier in the day, he arrived at the Melukamanahalli helipad in the hilly Nilgiris district in a special chopper and travelled to Bandipur.

The Tiger Project in Bandipur National Park has emerged as one of the prime habitats of tigers in the world.

As a model code of conduct is in place in the state, BJP leaders did not get the opportunity to welcome PM Modi. Authorities welcomed him at the Mandakalli airport in Mysuru on Thursday night and also at the Melukamanahalli helipad.

He arrived in Mysuru on Saturday late evening to take part in celebrations to mark the 50 years of 'Project Tiger'.

## 'Moment of pride'

The Prime Minister said India did not believe in conflict between ecology and economy but gave importance to coexistence between the two.

Protection of wildlife was a universal issue, Modi said, launching the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) that endeavours to protect and conserve big cats.

Citing data that showed the tiger population in India stood at 3,167 in 2022, Modi said: "The tiger numbers that we have reached shows that this family of ours is growing. This is a moment of pride."

Stating that India has not only saved tigers, but created an ecosystem for it to flourish, he said, "India is a country where protecting nature is part of culture." — Agencies



## 'Culprit arrived in car to post threat letter'

**T**he Central Crime Branch police are continuing an investigation into the case of threat letter sent to actor Kiccha Sudeep. The police have found that the accused came in a Swift car to deliver the threat note.

It was captured on CCTV that the accused had reached the Domlur post office in a Swift and put the letter in.

However, when the police went to investigate based on the CCTV footage,

it was found that the car belonged to a person near Kengeri and he didn't know anything about the letter. The investigation revealed that the accused had used a fake number plate on the car that he came in.

## Murder mystery

The body of a 15-year-old boy was found on April 3 in KG Halli police station limits. Looking at the injuries on the body,

the police suspected that it could have been a murder. Combining through more than 60 CCTV cameras' footage, they cracked the murder.

The murdered boy has been identified as Satish, 15. The accused have been identified as Shoalb, Suhailullah Sharif, and Muhammad Hussain. Police said the accused wanted to ride Satish's horse and when the latter refused, they plotted his murder as revenge. —BMB

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# RCB focus on spin play and death overs bowling ahead of LSG clash

Royal Challengers Bangalore will be expecting more runs from its batters and discipline in death overs bowling when they take on the high-flying Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL here on Monday.

RCB come into the match after a demoralising 81-run defeat against

Kolkata Knight Riders and would be eager to return to winning ways at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

It's early days in the tournament but RCB's death bowling has been a major concern for the team.

RCB looked on course to register their second win of the season but the script

went awry after the 12th over. They had the game in the palm of their hands, reducing the opposition to 89 for 5 before KKR went on to post 204/7.

Against Mumbai also they went for over 13 runs in the last five overs. Death overs specialist Harshal Patel and Mohammed Siraj, who had done well with the new ball, have struggled at the back end.

The absence of Wanindu Hasaranga, who is on national duty, and Josh Hazlewood, who is recovering from an Achilles heel injury, has only amplified RCB's death bowling woes.

Both bowlers are expected to link up with team this week. But until then, South African medium pacer Wayne Parnell who has come in a replacement for Reece Topley can help with the ball at the back end of the innings.

RCB bat deep. Openers Virat Kohli and du Plessis did the job in the win against Mumbai but against KKR, the entire line up was done in by spin.



RCB captain Faf du Plessis during net practice session on Sunday at Chinnaswamy stadium

rounder Marcus Stoinis' form is a concern.

## Squad

Lucknow Super Giants: KL Rahul (c and wk), Kyle Mayers, Deepak Hooda, Krunal Pandya, Amit Mishra, Nicholas Pooran (wk), Naveen ul Haq, Ayush Badoni, Avesh Khan, Karan Sharma, Yuvraj Chahal, Yash Thakur, Romario Shepherd, Mark Wood, Swapnil Singh, Manan Vohra, Daniel Sams, Prerak Mankad, Krishnappa Gowtham, Jaydev Unadkat, Marcus Stoinis, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav.

Royal Challengers Bangalore: Faf du Plessis (c), Virat Kohli, Mohammad Siraj, Harshal Patel, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Shahbaz Ahmed, Anuj Rawat, Akash Deep, Mahipal Lomror, Finn Allen, Suyash Prabhudesai, Karn Sharma, Siddarth Kaul, David Willey, Wayne Parnell, Himanshu Sharma, Manoj Bhandage, Rajan Kumar, Avinash Singh, Sonu Yadav, Michael Bracewell. Match starts at 7:30 PM IST.

PTI

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**I, Jagdish Kumar Sirvi S/O,** Nemaram Ji R/o No 98, 3 Rd Floor, 28th Main, Jsr Layout Sector- 1, Bangalore 560102, have changed my name to Jagdish Kumar for all purposes.

**I, Promod Dogra R/o 72606,** Nikoo Homes, Bhartiya City, Thanissandra Road, Bangalore-64 have changed my minor daughter's name from Skandha Promod Dogra to Skandha Dogra for all purposes

**I, Promod Dogra R/o 72606,** Nikoo Homes, Bhartiya City, Thanissandra Road, Bangalore-64 have changed my minor son's name from Parth Promod Dogra to Parth Dogra

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## Bengaluru overdrive

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and insufficient public transport system is the reason behind such a huge jump in the number of private vehicles on city roads.

"Out of all the major cities in the country, Bengaluru has the worst public transport system. While BMTC was the only public transport available up until a decade ago, it still carried 55 lakh people in a day. Today, BMTC ridership has dropped drastically," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder, Citizens 4 Citizens and city based public transport activist.

Mobility experts pointed out that while public transport in the city has not received the desired push from the government, forcing more and more people towards the private mode of transport, the walkability and cyclability index of the city have deteriorated too.

Connectivity issues with the existing public transport system are forcing people to reach out to private vehicles, experts further noted.

Experts said while the coronavirus pandemic has made some

impact on behavioural change and people's preferences towards private vehicles, the unabated focus of authorities on developing road infrastructure is the prime reason behind the surge in the number of private vehicles.

"This emphasis on road infra-

**Many commuters are finding it difficult to use the newly inaugurated Whitefield metro line due to the lack of first-mile connectivity, lack of parking...**

structure projects by the BBMP has placed the city in a vicious cycle. Such futile interventions are being done by the civic body for more than two decades, without any effective and long-term solutions. Instead, the authorities must focus on strengthening the existing public transport system by making the travel experience seamless for commuters. For instance, many com-

muters are finding it difficult to use the newly inaugurated Whitefield metro line due to the lack of first-mile connectivity, lack of parking space and feeder services," said Dr Ashish Verma, professor, Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab, IISc.

Providing a seamless commuting experience and establishing a bigger network of public transport infrastructure on a war footing are some of the measures that the government can take up to put a check on the number of private vehicles on city roads.

Experts said a network of at least 300-350 km of suburban rail and metro tracks can help reverse the shift. While both systems are in the construction process, the pace of implementation is slow.

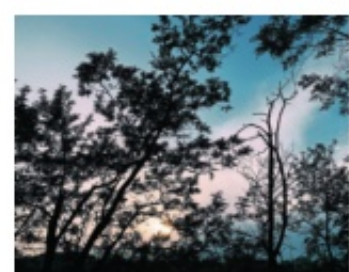
"Even if BMTC provides two feeder buses to cater to each existing metro station, it will amount to less than 5% of BMTC's fleet. This will cover approximately 40% of the city. Moreover, speeding up metro and suburban rail work will make people shift to this mode of transport. We need about 300 km of suburban and metro tracks for people to start giving priority to public transport," added Dugar.

## Binding wires choke young trees

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the officials roughly two weeks ago. But as of now, no action has been taken to remedy the situation. This was evident during our visit a few days ago as well. We want the agency involved in the planting process to put a stop to this practice if it is followed in other areas as well," he said.

Pachhapur added that already nearly 2 cm of the binding wire has gone inside the tree as it continues to grow. "If they want to tag trees, it should be implemented more safely without harming the trees. BMRCCL should verify the practice followed by the contractor."



As the green cover in the city continues to deplete, such practices negatively impact the compensatory afforestation expected to replace the green cover in the long run.

Tree expert Vijay Nishanth con-

demned the act. He said it could impact the growth of the trees: "This should not be done; it could impact the growth of the tree. They could have used elastic material to tie the trees and help the trees grow in a natural state. In some cases, the injury to the tree could cause fungal infections. However, such rigid materials must be avoided. Parastatal agencies should resolve such issues at the same pace as axing trees. The Tree Expert Committee constituted should oversee the status of trees being planted as part of compensatory afforestation and must not just resort to issuing permission for axing trees."

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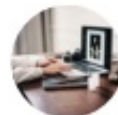
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# Check on your eldest

**What is 'eldest daughter syndrome' and how can we fix it?**

**H**ave you heard of "eldest daughter syndrome"? It's the emotional burden eldest daughters tend to take on (and are encouraged to take on) in many families from a young age.

From caring for younger siblings, helping out with everyday chores, looking after sick parents to sorting shopping orders or online deliveries, eldest daughters often shoulder a heavy but invisible burden of domestic responsibility from a young age.

You might ask, shouldn't the eldest children, who are supposed to be more grown-up, help out and look after their younger siblings? Aren't girls "naturally" better at caring? These popular assumptions are so entrenched that they can make it difficult for us to

see the problem.

Adolescent girls on social media are speaking out about the unfair amount of unpaid (and unappreciated) labour they do in their families, as well as discussing its adverse effects on their lives, health and wellbeing.

Of course, the "syndrome" has existed for centuries across many parts of the world. So why is it now being spoken about as such an issue?

Despite women's rise in education and employment, they still shoulder the lion's share of housework. Indeed, progress towards gender equality in the workplace has not translated into gender equality at home. And eldest daughter syndrome can go some way to explain why this is the case.

Research shows that children make a notable but often overlooked contribution to domestic labour. Mirroring the gender divide among adults, girls between five and 14 years old spend 40 per cent more time on domestic work than boys.

Following a patriarchal pecking order, the eldest daughter often bears the brunt of the burden among her siblings.

As voiced by many on social media, the syndrome can impair eldest daughters' wellbeing and "steal" their childhood as they are rushed into assuming a disproportionate amount of adult responsibilities – also known as parentification. In doing so, it reproduces gender inequality in domestic labour from one generation to another.

## Why it happens

At least three behavioural theories underlie eldest daughter syndrome and they are often simultaneously at play, reinforcing one another.

First, the role modelling theory, which suggests that eldest daughters often follow their mother as a role model in learning to "do" gender. Second, the sex-typing theory proposes that parents often assign different, gendered tasks to girls and boys.

Sex-typing often builds on parents' gendered understanding of domestic work as something associated with femininity. For parents who consciously strive to instil gender equality in their children, sex-typing can still occur as eldest daughters unconsciously join their mothers in gendered activities such as cooking, house cleaning and shopping.

And third, the labour substitution theory suggests that when working mothers have limited time available for domestic work, eldest daughters often act as "substitutes". As a result, they end up spending more time on care provision and housework.

Consequently, mothers' progress towards gender equality at work can come at the cost of their eldest daughters picking up the domestic slack at a young age.

The issue of eldest daughter syndrome has far-reaching implications for global gender inequality and an ongoing global care crisis.

## What can we do?

The "cure" might seem simple – we need families to recognise the unfair burden that may have been placed on the eldest daughter and to redistribute household responsibilities more equally.

—By Yang Hu, Lancaster University (The Conversation)

## MIND, BODY & HEART



## All problems solved

Dear Coleen

**I'm a man in my early 30s and I've never felt this lost and heartbroken before. I've recently split with my girlfriend after 18 months of being together. She discovered she was pregnant and decided she didn't want to keep the baby, which made her realise she didn't want to stay with me. I'm still in love with her and hoped we'd get married one day and have a family. Of course I accept it's her body and her decision, but she didn't even want to discuss the baby or hear my point of view. Her mind was made up from the start. I'd appreciate any advice you have on how I can move forward.**

### COLEEN SAYS

It's really hard because you're grieving on many levels – the end of a relationship, the loss of a child and also your hopes and dreams for the future. You're right, it is her body and her decision, and if that's what she wants, then you have to accept it. It sounds as if getting pregnant was an unexpected wake-up call and it's made her rethink a lot of things, including your relationship.

It's important to fill your life with positive things, which is hard at first, but I think counselling would help. Just sharing how you feel with a counsellor can be enough to help you begin to move forward. I can promise you it does get better with time and support from loved ones. Also, the alternative scenario might have been equally heartbreaking – she could have decided to have the baby, but not to stay with you. The decision has been made and, as harsh as she sounds, not wanting to speak or meet up, she's probably right. It would just hurt you more and stop you moving on.

Remember, she's going through a lot too, and at some point, she might want to rekindle your friendship, but it's important you move forward with your own life.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

# Sexperts Debunk Common Sexual Health Myths

**M**yth regarding sexual health are common not just among adolescents but also many adults. This lack of sex education and information can deeply impact our interpersonal relationships and how we perceive our own bodies and pleasure.

Beyond pleasure sex-education also helps prevent unsafe sexual health practices and unwanted consequences.

Sex experts aka Sexperts from Allo Health have answered 1,231 questions & myths asked by people from all over India on a free of cost + anonymous platform- #AskTheSexpert Portal & through a newspaper column by the same name.

The most common themes in these questions were STI prevention (sexually transmitted infections), Sexual Hygiene, Pregnancy & Birth Control and Sexual Health Disorders.

We've handpicked for our readers the top three questions that have been asked to the sexperts:

## How long should one last in bed?

Popular media wants us to believe that a person's sexual prowess and quality of sex is directly proportional to how long it lasts. This is not true. Time doesn't always impact how pleasurable the sex is. Different folks and different partners may enjoy sex for various amounts of time & that's completely normal. As long as you and your partner (if any) are enjoying and feeling enough pleasure, don't waste your time worrying about time.

If you feel that your or your partner's sexual experience is spoiled due to short or long duration of sex- you may need an expert to look into this. Sexual disorders like premature ejaculation or erectile dysfunction (sex is too short) or delayed ejaculation (sex is too long) impact the quality of sex folks living with them as well as their partners.

Here's a reminder that all these conditions can be treated or managed so that you can have a healthy sex life. Lack of sex-ed and social

stigma regarding these can keep one away from getting medical help. If you or your partner is experiencing any of these symptoms we request you to connect with an expert instead of suffering in silence.

Sexual health disorders are more common than we think and there's nothing shameful about seeking treatment for them.

## Is masturbating healthy?

Masturbating is normal- and can also be a healthy expression of one's sexuality.

We have all heard myths about how masturbation can cause blindness, hairfall weakness, and even disorders like erectile dysfunction. Well, these are of course just that- myths.

Masturbation is a healthy way of engaging sexually for both singles and those with a partner. Apart from the fact that it helps one understand more about their bodies and pleasure zones- studies have highlighted other health benefits of masturbation that include relieving

stress, managing pain from menstrual cramps, improving sleep & relaxing the mind.

The only possible concern with masturbation is if you think it has become excessive and is coming in the way of your day to day life and work. Please connect with an expert to find a resolution of this problem.

## Can Erectile Dysfunction be treated?

Erectile Dysfunction or ED is the inability to sustain an erection sufficient for pleasurable sex for those involved. ED can affect people of all ages & can be caused due to physical or even mental health related reasons as well as lifestyle choices, medication & trauma. ED is treatable and manageable once you have established the cause for it.

We recommend a simple assessment to help the experts in accurately understanding the cause of your concern followed by the most suitable course of action. Allo Health provides a free assessment on their website.

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



## COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson



## Bizarrotrip



## Diamond Lil



## Hart of the city



## Crankschaft



## Mutts



## WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

## Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in your business, which may increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in family life. Singles may likely find a good match. Love birds may make a decision to get married.



## Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may be very happy as your losses may convert into profits. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You may likely have some changes in your position at work, such as promotions. You are likely to have control over opponents and hidden enemies. Love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.



## Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may feel energetic and perform efficiently at work. Your hard work may pay off now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network, and disputes with your partner may also be resolved.



## Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Things may be under control, and you will enjoy work. Your focus may be good, and this will reflect in your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to take difficult decisions in terms of your profession. Your past investments may likely give profits.



## Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may be busy at work. You may be enthusiastic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to take quick decisions that will increase your business. You may likely start a new innovation in partnership, but an investment in fixed assets in the partnership is not advised.



## Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon, which makes you happy. You are polite with people around you, and you may take some difficult decisions in business with the help of your family members. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills, which may increase your business.



## Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, the moon is positive, and your health may be good. You may likely visit a spiritual place with family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to a religious place or charity. Property-related deals may likely be done. You may plan for overseas work-related travel or higher education.



## Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or transfers in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with seniors will be strong, and old health issues will be cured now.



## Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may have good internal strength. You may enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new projects, and your perfection may help you to implement them successfully. Job seekers may find a good job, and love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.



## Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, the moon is negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies, and you are advised to avoid being involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this messy situation. You are advised to avoid making arguments in domestic life, rash driving or any adventure tour.



## Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may have a dull feeling and be dissatisfied, and you may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance, which may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.



## Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

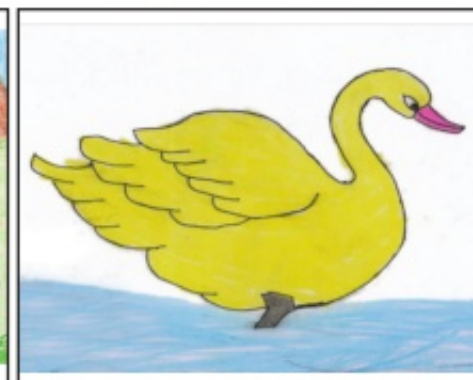
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise, you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while you are talking with people around you. Love birds should be careful in making discussions on worthless topics; otherwise, their relationship may be affected. It is advised to avoid making long journeys. Your investments in the past may give you negative results.



## KIDZONE



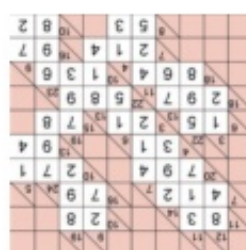
Sukhi R Gowda, 7 Years, Swargarani School



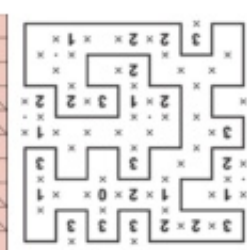
Sukhi R Gowda, 7 Years, Swargarani School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

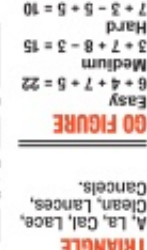
## SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS EYE

SOLVE IN 1M

## Soaking in the charm of Delhi

**S**ara Ali Khan is shooting in Delhi for Homi Adajania's 'Murder Mubarak' and sharing BTS (behind-the-scenes) moments on her Instagram handle.

Taking to her Instagram story, Sara shared a picture with her team at Bangla Sahib Gurdwara. Sara is seen in a white and black salwar Kameez. She captioned the frame "When we have a long lunch break." Sara shared three solo pictures at the scenic backdrop of India Gate. Sara seemed to be taken over by the charm of Delhi, as she posed in the lush green in the backdrop of the setting sun. But Sara's solo pictures left the fans baffled.

One wrote, "How do you manage to take such pics publicly?"

Karisma Kapoor is playing the lead character in the movie alongside Sara.

The film also stars Kunal Kemmu, Pankaj Tripathi, Dimple Kapadia, Sanjay Kapoor and Vijay Varma in pivotal roles. —IANS



## Sing along

**A**ctor Timothee Chalamet is ready to play Bob Dylan on the big screen and he will be doing his own singing.

Director James Mangold teased his upcoming movie in a new interview with a media during the Star Wars Celebration in London, reports a media publication.

He was asked if the 'Bones and All' actor would sing and he answered: "Of course!"

The 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny' director talked about the moment the film will take place, which he expects to start filming in August.



— IANS



## More the merrier

**S**hubha Poonja, one of the three lead actresses of Kannada movie Tridevi, is happy to get a chance to play a different role. She was earlier one of the heroines in the film Moggina Manasu for which she bagged the Filmfare Award.

"I was craving to act in movies that have multiple lead actresses. Now, I've realised my dream. We had a wonderful experience during the shooting that was held in a for-

## Mouni & friends

**M**ouni Roy and Disha Patani are certainly the new BFFs in town, ever since the girls were a part of Akshay Kumar's tour, called 'The Entertainers'. Sonam Bajwa and Nora Fatehi were also a part of it and during the tour and rehearsals, all these girls have bonded like a house on fire.

However, Disha and Mouni also display love for each other on social media.

Mouni dropped some pictures and wrote, "First loves" She referred to the camera and one can see her looking gorgeous in an ethnic look while dancing in front of the camera. Mouni wore a lavender lehenga choli with a petite hair style.

Disha commented on her post and wrote, "So beautiful..." A few days back, Mouni had shared some pictures with Disha and their bonding was quite evident."



est," said Shubha Poonja.

She said that she has to thank director Ashwin Mathew for giving her the opportunity to act in the movie Tridevi. "The director made us work hard during the shooting. We were always on the run during the shooting," she said.



Tridevi, a three-heroine movie also has Sandhya, a model from Bengaluru, and Jyotsna Rao, the niece of Bharathi Vishnuvardhan. Its trailer was launched at MMB Legacy recently.

It is said the film was shot in the lush locales of Wayanad and Coorg.

The movie has cinematography by Kunjumani S Kumar and music by Fedel Ashok. The movie is about three girls who go on an adventurous trip to unravel secrets.

It is said that the story is about the problems the three women face during the adventurous trip.

## LET THE MUSIC PLAY

**Sunny Leone speaks about the importance of being an all-round entertainer**

**F**rom exuding oomph in Baby Doll and Chaar Botal Vodka to showing off her moves in Saiyaan Superstar and Trippy Trippy, Sunny Leone has had the audience grooving to her dance moves in movies and the numerous music videos she has featured in.

Talking about how music has played an important role in shaping her career, Sunny says, "Music is a part of everybody's life. These music videos, be it peppy numbers, romantic ones or slow numbers, have worked for me amazingly. Songs play a very special role in Indian films, which is proved by Naatu Naatu winning the Best Original Song award at the Oscars. In Indian showbiz, it is important to showcase yourself as not just an actor, but a well-rounded entertainer and so, music is definitely the top priority."

While she loves to flaunt her moves on the screen, Sunny reveals she isn't a trained dancer and has learnt everything on the job. She says, "I love doing dance numbers and look forward to every song that I get to work on. But, I am not a trained dancer. I have been trained on the job. I learn the moves during rehearsals. It's the taskmaster in me that makes me practice hard till I get it right."

Raising three kids and being a hands-on mom hasn't slowed down Sunny. "Like every parent, my kids are my top priority. I don't want to trade any moment of being with these three beautiful children at any time. But at the same time, I enjoy working and my career is important to me. Working is good for my mental health and sanity. I prefer being a working mommy," she signs off.

— Onkar Kulkarni, ETimes



## Tipplers beware

**V**ishalajay, an MNC employee, debuts as a director and also as a hero with the movie Suraari. Vishalajay has also bankrolled this movie that is about the menace of drugs and alcohol.

"I played small character roles in Kannada movies earlier and also made short movies. I had to hit the gym for over 100 days to get my abs. This achievement will be the highlight of the movie. The movie focuses on the ill-effects of liquor on youth. I lost many friends to alcohol addiction," said Vishalajay.

He said he came across a young boy who passed away due to multi-organ failure and witnessed the pitiable state of his mother. "The boy who passed away was an alcohol addict. Now, there is no one



to look after his aged mother. This movie conveys a message to society on adverse impact of liquor," he said.

He said that he had to put on more weight and lose the weight for this movie. "I appeal to moviegoers to encourage, support and watch the movie Suraari," he said.

Archana, Likhita, Avinash Yelandur, Om Prakash Rao, Ganesh Rao, Mimicry Gopi, Chitral Rangaswamy are the cast in this movie.